

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 172415  
ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 DODE-00  
DLOS-09 OES-09 SCS-06 CA-01 EB-08 FMC-01 /068 R

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APPROVED BY AF/C:LDJUNIOR  
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-----061616 081117Z /21

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 172415

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: CASC, AO, US

SUBJECT: HARASSMENT OF U.S. SHIP BY ANGOLAN SOLDIERS

MISSION IS REQUESTED TO CONVEY FOLLOWING TO ANGOLAN  
AMBASSADOR FIGUEIREDO:

1. AS GOA KNOWS, USG HAS NO OBJECTION COMMERCE BETWEEN  
U.S. AND ANGOLA, AND IN FACT WELCOMES IT. HOWEVER, WE  
WOULD LIKE TO INFORM GOA OF A PROBLEM INVOLVING A U.S.  
SHIPPING LINE WHICH HAS CAUSED US CONCERN.
2. IN FEBRUARY 1978, THE SS AFRICAN METEOR, BELONGING  
TO FARRELL LINES, WAS IN LUANDA HARBOR TO TAKE ON A LOAD  
OF COFFEE. ALTHOUGH SHIP IS PRIMARILY FOR CARGO, IT ALSO  
HAD SOME PASSENGERS, INCLUDING SOME ELDERLY WOMEN.
3. FARRELL SUBSEQUENTLY REPORTED TO US THAT ON FEBRUARY 10  
ABOUT 25 ARMED MEN IN VARIOUS TYPES OF UNIFORM BOARDED  
THE SHIP, THREATENED THE PASSENGERS WITH FIREARMS, RANSACKED  
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PAGE 02 STATE 172415

THE PASSENGERS' EFFECTS, AND GENERALLY TERRORIZED THEM,  
ALTHOUGH APPARENTLY NOT ACTUALLY CAUSING THEM SERIOUS PHY-  
SICAL HARM.

4. AS A RESULT OF THIS INCIDENT, FARRELL HAS DECIDED NOT  
TO RETURN TO LUANDA. OTHER U.S. SHIPPING LINES HAVE ALSO  
EXPRESSED THEIR CONCERN TO US ABOUT THE INCIDENT.

5. WE ARE NOT SUGGESTING THAT THE INCIDENT WAS OFFICIALLY INSPIRED; IT WAS PRESUMABLY AN ISOLATED INCIDENT INVOLVING ONE GROUP OF UNDISCIPLINED SOLDIERS. HOWEVER, WE ARE SURE THE GOA UNDERSTANDS THE CONCERN WHICH SUCH INCIDENTS RAISE IN AMERICAN BUSINESSES WHICH WOULD LIKE TO TRADE WITH ANGOLA; IN THE U.S. PUBLIC (SEVERAL MEMBERS OF CONGRESS HAVE WRITTEN US ABOUT THE INCIDENT); AND IN THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH WHICH IS RESPONSIBLE FOR PROTECTING U.S. CITIZENS ABROAD.

6. WE THUS WISH TO BRING THE INCIDENT TO THE GOA'S ATTENTION WITH THE HOPE THAT SIMILAR INCIDENTS CAN BE PREVENTED IN THE FUTURE.

7. FYI. IF FIGUEIREDO QUERIES THE DELAY IN REPORTING THIS INCIDENT, YOU MAY RESPOND THAT CONTINUING EVIDENCE OF CONGRESSIONAL CONCERN LEADS US TO MAKE THE APPROACH AT THIS TIME, ONE WHICH SHOULD NOT BE CONSIDERED AS A DEMARCHE BUT AS A FRIENDLY COMMUNICATION. END FYI. VANCE

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** SHIPS, HARASSMENT  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 08 jul 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Document Unique ID:** 00  
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**Executive Order:** GS  
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**Expiration:**  
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